

ADMINISTRATIVE -- INTERNAL USE ONLY

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DDI-1424-74

10 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Published Comment on JPRS

Paul:

The attached newsletter has just been received by a staff linguist who is an SFL member. We doubt that it will generate further public comment, but with this sort of thing you never know. Therefore, I am passing it to you for your information.

On 28 February a delegation of ATA (American Translators Association) and SFL (Society of Federal Linguists) met with [] Chief of our JPRS field office in the []. The group had requested an interview "to discuss JPRS policies and practices." The meeting progressed amicably enough, and the delegation seemed favorably impressed at the range of rates paid by JPRS to its contract translators. (Naturally enough such complaints as we have had over the years tend to focus on the starting rate for new unproven contractors and for those who don't show the skill, speed or reliability which bring the higher rates.)

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The SFL published the attached account in a special supplement to its April-May newsletter as a result of this meeting. It is critical (and distorted) as might be expected of a professional organ which is trying to increase rates paid to translators. We do not know the total memberships of either the SFL or ATA, but they are not large. The ATA, which has membership in Pennsylvania, has been in touch with Senator Schweiker about JPRS over the past 18 months and the Senator's office has been in touch with OLC.

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ATA/SFL criticism of JPRS is not new, and has so far been of little consequence. We will remain alert to their activity regarding JPRS and ensure that in fact there are no grounds for embarrassment to the Agency. We initiated a review of the JPRS rate structure last month to make certain that we are meeting Agency and USG standards and expect to complete this review in the near future. [REDACTED] by the way, has just announced his intention to take a Discontinued Service Retirement, and we are in the process of selecting his replacement.

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Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service

Attachment:

Special Supplement to the SFL Newsletter (April-May 1974)

cc: Assistant to the Director (Angus Thuermer)
Office of Legislative Counsel ([REDACTED])
DDI Security Officer ([REDACTED])

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